

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A composition having reduced di-salt formation, comprising:  
a first portion comprising  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester; and  
5 a second portion comprising additional detergent components that cause more than a  
minor amount of additional di-salt formation, the second portion having a free moisture content  
of less than about 6 weight percent;  
the first portion post-added to the second portion.
2. The composition of claim 1, wherein the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester is sodium methyl  
ester sulfonate.
3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester is a  $C_{16}$  methyl  
ester sulfonate, a  $C_{18}$  methyl ester sulfonate, or a mixture thereof.
4. The composition of claim 1, wherein the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester is prepared from  
beef tallow, palm kernel oil, palm oil, coconut oil, soybean oil, canola oil, cohune oil, coco  
15 butter, white grease, cottonseed oil, corn oil, rape seed oil, yellow grease, mixtures or fractions  
thereof.
5. The composition of claim 1, wherein the second portion further comprises a  
builder, a nonionic surfactant, a secondary anionic surfactant, a polymer dispersant, an oxidizing  
agent, a biocidal agent, a foam regulator, a binder, an anticaking agent, an activator, a catalyst, a  
20 thickener, a stabilizer, a fragrance, a soil suspending agent, a soil release agent, a filler, a  
brightener, a UV protectant, an enzyme, or a mixture thereof.

6. The composition of claim 5, wherein the builder is sodium silicate, polysilicate, amorphous silicate, phyllosilicate, soda ash, or silicated soda ash.

7. The composition of claim 1, wherein the free moisture content of the second portion is between about 1 to about 3 weight percent.

8. The composition of claim 1, wherein the composition is substantially free of secondary anionic surfactant.

9. An  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester composition, comprising:  
a detergent portion comprising at least one detergent component that causes more than a minor amount of additional di-salt formation; and  
 $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester which is post-added to the detergent portion;  
whereby additional di-salt formation is reduced.

10. The composition of claim 9, wherein the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester is powdered.

11. The composition of claim 9, wherein the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester is sodium methyl ester sulfonate.

12. The composition of claim 11, wherein the methyl ester sulfonate is prepared from beef tallow, palm kernel oil, palm oil, coconut oil, soybean oil, canola oil, cohune oil, coco butter, white grease, cottonseed oil, corn oil, rape seed oil, yellow grease, mixtures or fractions thereof.

13. The composition of claim 9, wherein the detergent portion further comprises a builder, a nonionic surfactant, a secondary anionic surfactant, a polymer dispersant, an oxidizing agent, a biocidal agent, a foam regulator, a binder, an anticaking agent, an activator, a catalyst, a

thickener, a stabilizer, a fragrance, a soil suspending agent, a filler, a brightener, a UV protectant, an enzyme, or a mixture thereof.

14. The composition of claim 9, further comprising an adjuvant portion.

15. The composition of claim 14, wherein the adjuvant portion comprises an enzyme,

5 a fragrance or an oxidizing agent.

16. An  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester composition prepared by:

providing at least one detergent component that causes more than a minor amount of additional di-salt formation;

forming the at least one detergent component into a detergent portion; and

post-adding  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester to the detergent portion;

whereby the amount of the di-salt formation is reduced.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester is substantially free of components that cause more than a minor amount of additional di-salt formation.

18. The composition of claim 16, further prepared by:

reducing the free moisture content of the detergent portion to between about 1 to about 6

weight percent.

19. The composition of claim 16, wherein the detergent portion is powder, pellets, beads, or granules.

20. The composition of claim 16, wherein the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester is sodium methyl

ester sulfonate.

21. The composition of claim 16, further prepared by:

Pub  
C7  
applying a coating to the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester.

22. A method of making an  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester-containing composition,  
comprising:

providing at least one detergent component that causes more than a minor amount of

5 additional di-salt formation;

providing an  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester;

forming the at least one detergent component into a detergent portion; and

post-adding the  $\alpha$ -sulfofatty acid ester to the detergent portion.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the detergent portion is formed by dry blending,  
10 spray drying, agglomerating or fluid bed mixing.

09704256-110100